

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00267 231604Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /074 W
-----000733 232335Z /72-65

R 231225Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8175
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0267

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IC
SUBJECT: LABOR SITUATION IN ICELAND REMAINS UNSETTLED

REF: REYKJAVIK 0251 (DTG 171640Z FEB 78)

1. PROSPECTS FOR LABOR UNREST FOLLOWING ENACTMENT OF
GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM REMAIN UNCERTAIN. SEVERAL
UNIONS HAVE RENOUNCED JULY 77 WAGE AGREEMENTS AND HAVE
VOICED THREAT OF STRIKES IN RETALIATION FOR LOSS OF WAGE
BENEFITS EXPECTED MARCH 1 (REFTEL). NEW COMPLICATION,
HOWEVER, IS THAT BJORN JONSSON, PRESIDENT OF ICELANDIC
FEDERATION OF LABOR (IFL) HAS REPORTEDLY SUFFERED SERIOUS
HEART ATTACK AND POSSIBLE RESULTING BRAIN DAMAGE. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT HIS PLACE AT HELM OF IFL HAS BEEN TAKEN
OVER, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, BY FEDERATION VICE PRESIDENT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 REYKJA 00267 231604Z

GUDMUNDUR SNORRI JONSSON (NO APPARENT RELATION TO BJORN).

2. ALTHOUGH SNORRI JONSSON IS MEMBER OF LEFTISTS PEOPLES
ALLIANCE AND IS REPUTEDLY MORE MILITANT THAN BJORN
JONSSON, HE LACKS BJORN'S INFLUENCE AND LATTER'S
FOLLOWING AMONG IFL CONSTITUENT UNIONS. RESULT IS THAT
HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO EXERT LEADERSHIP NECESSARY TO

PROVIDE SOLID IFL FRONT IN ENCOURAGING ANY CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT.

3. MOREOVER, THERE ARE REPORTS OF CONSIDERABLE RELUCTANCE AMONG MANY RANK AND FILE WORKERS TO ENGAGE IN ANY POTENTIALLY ILLEGAL STRIKE ACTIVITY. ACCORDING TO SOME LOCAL SOURCES, EVEN IF WAGE AGREEMENTS ARE RENOUNCED AS OF MARCH 1, UNIONS ARE OBLIGATED TO WAIT 30 DAYS BEFORE ANNOUNCING ANY STRIKE AND UNIONS WOULD STILL HAVE TO WAIT ONE WEEK AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE ACTUAL STRIKE COULD BEGIN. THIS COULD CONCEIVABLY DELAY ANY MAJOR STRIKE ACTION UNTIL END OF FIRST WEEK OF APRIL AT EARLIEST. THIS DOES NOT OF COURSE RULE OUT WILDCAT STRIKES, ONE DAY WALKOUTS, OR OTHER POTENTIALLY ILLEGAL STRIKE ACTIONS DURING MARCH, BUT POSSIBLY ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION TO ANY SUCH STRIKE ACTIVITIES COULD STRENGTHEN HAND OF GOVERNMENT IN DEALING WITH THE UNIONS. MOREOVER, IF FACED BY STRIKES, GOVERNMENT COULD SEEK VOTE OF CONFIDENCE BY CALLING EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS. PROSPECT OF GOVERNMENT DOING SO IS ANOTHER FACTOR UNION LEADERSHIP WILL HAVE TO WEIGH IN DECIDING ON NEXT STEPS.

BLAKE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978REYKJA00267
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780084-1083
Format: TEL
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780222/aaaaasci.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dd4408d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 REYKJAVIK 251
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3504296
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR SITUATION IN ICELAND REMAINS UNSETTLED
TAGS: ELAB, IC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dd4408d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014